

Wayne Allard

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Contact: Angela de Rocha
(202) 224-5944

SENATE APPROVES ALLARD'S FUNDING MEASURES FOR MULTIPLE COLORADO CONSERVATION PROJECTS

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The U.S. Senate on Wednesday evening approved funding for an impressive list of conservation projects requested by U.S. Senator Wayne Allard (R-Colorado) in the 2006 Interior Appropriations bill.

“The projects funded in this legislation will allow us to preserve and protect some of Colorado’s most magnificent scenery, as well as water and wildlife assets, for future generations to appreciate and enjoy,” said Senator Allard, who is a member of the Senate Interior Appropriations Subcommittee.

The Interior Appropriations bill provides funding for the following Colorado projects:

- * \$1.5 million for the McInnis Canyons National Conservation Area, formerly known as Colorado Canyons, in Western Colorado so the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) can complete acquisition and protection of nearly 1,500 acres of private holdings;
- * \$500,000 to acquire land for the High Elk Corridor in the Elk Mountains between the Maroon Bells-Snowmass Wilderness Area and the Raggeds Wilderness Area in the White River National Forest. The FY 2006 funding will complete the federal portion of this purchase, with the remaining portion to be purchased with privately raised funds;
- * \$1.5 million for Banded Peak Ranch in Southern Colorado to complete a two-phase conservation easement. Protection of this area compliments the Navajo River Protection Plan and helps ensure sustained flows of clean water downstream;
- * \$982,000 for the Platte River Fish Recovery, a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service-Colorado Department of Wildlife cooperative program to implement the recovery of four species, the Whooping Crane, Piping Plover, Least Tern, and Pallid Sturgeon, in compliance with the Endangered Species Act;
- * \$691,000 for the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program, a four-state program operating on all reaches of the Upper Colorado River Basin and the San Juan River. This program serves as an Endangered Species Act compliance mechanism for more than 800 water projects on the Upper Colorado River, including all major Front Range water development initiatives.

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